

# PRUDENT PARENT STANDARDS

SENATE BILL (SB) 358

USE OF OCCASIONAL  
SHORT TERM BABYSITTERS



# LEGISLATION

- EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2006
- SB 358 ~ authorizes a Caregiver to arrange for occasional short-term babysitting of their foster children without requiring the babysitter to undergo a Criminal Record Background Check, FBI check, Child Abuse Index check, Health Screening or CPR training
- All County Letter (ACL) 06-02  
March 7, 2006



# LEGISLATION

- SB 358 – Eliminated regulatory barriers (Fingerprints / Child abuse Index Check) & allows a caregiver to select a babysitter using the reasonable and prudent parent standard
- If it is determined the caregiver did not provide or make an effort to provide the babysitter with pertinent information they maybe cited under 362.04 Welfare and Institutions Code
- 1522(b) Health and Safety Code



# OCCASIONAL SHORT TERM BABYSITTERS

- Short Term – not more than 24 consecutive hours
- “Reasonable & Prudent Parent Standards” – the standard characterized by careful & sensible parental decisions that maintain the child’s health, safety and best interest.



# OCCASIONAL SHORT TERM BABYSITTERS

- Occasional Short-Term Babysitting:
  - May be used for, but is not limited to –
    - Medical appointment
    - Grocery Shopping
    - Special Occasions for Foster Parents
    - Adult Social Gatherings (etc. bowling)
    - Training Conferences



# MAKING CAREFUL & SENSIBLE PARENTAL DECISIONS

- Consider the child's:
- Age
- Maturity
- Mental & Physical Health
- Developmental Level
- Behavioral Propensities
- Aptitude of the Child
- Ability of the Babysitter to Provide Appropriate Care



# INFORMATION FOR THE BABYSITTER

- Information about the foster child's emotional, behavioral, medical/physical conditions, if any.
- Any medications that should be administered to the foster child(ren) while being supervised by the babysitter.
- Current emergency contact information



# MAKING CAREFUL & SENSIBLE PARENTAL DECISIONS

- The Foster Parent needs to weigh the foreseeable risks in leaving the foster child with a babysitter
- The Foster Parent may need to discuss their concerns with the child's social worker if they are still unsure about the use of an occasional babysitter or extracurricular activity





# WHAT ARE REASONABLE DECISIONS?

- A foster parent would like to get a babysitter because the foster parent wants to go to a concert. The foster parent contacts his sister and asks if she would baby-sit 2 foster children ages 6 and 4. The foster children have been in the home for 6 months and have some difficulty getting to sleep at night.....



# YOUR CHOICES ARE:

- Not a reasonable decision to be made by out-of-home caregivers
- Decision that should be discussed with the social worker
- Falls within the reasonable and prudent parent standards



# WHAT ARE REASONABLE DECISIONS?

- A 16-year old would like to attend a one-day ski class with his high school. The trip requires a permission slip to be signed. The 16-year old has been in the foster home for 3 months and has been doing well.



# WHAT ARE REASONABLE DECISIONS?

- Foster parents go on a getaway weekend and leave 2 foster children, ages 12 and 15, with the foster aunt and uncle and their children



# WHAT ARE REASONABLE DECISIONS?

- A foster parent asks her 17-year old daughter to watch her foster children, ages 4 and 8 for 90 minutes so she can get her hair done. The daughter knows about the children and their behavior and knows how to reach the foster mother in an emergency



# **Babysitting Safety Checklist**

**Address & Phone Number:**

**Location of Foster Parents if emergency arises**

**Cell phone number's:**

**Emergency Neighbor contact:**

**Child/(ren's) Doctor & phone number:**

**Physical Health of child:**

**Allergies:**

**Medications:**

**Behavioral Propensities:**

**Special instructions or routines to follow:**

**Difficulty Sleeping or prefers a Night light:**



# **Babysitting Safety Checklist**

## **EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

**POLICE:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

**EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUAD:**

**POISON CONTROL CENTER:**



# OCCASIONAL SHORT TERM BABYSITTERS

- The provisions of SB 358 apply only to occasional, short-term care (less than 24 hours), babysitters should not be interpreted or applied to respite care providers who are allowed to care for foster children for more than 24 hours.

